

FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 401st Meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on 21st May 2019 at the Rufus Centre

Present: Cllrs G Mackey (Mayor) P Thompson (Deputy Mayor)
J Dann A Lutley J Roberts R Coleman
M Halligan D Toinko M Williams R Shaw
I Blazeby J Blakeman P Dodds P Earles
A Snape

Also present: CBCllr N Bunyan, Mr A Taylor from Bedford Commuters Association, Mr Steve Prior from Beds & Bucks Hunt Saboteurs and 5 members of the public

In attendance: Interim Town Clerk, RFO and Assistant Town Clerk

Apologies for absence received: Cllrs Platt and CBCllrs C Gomm

4770 Election of Chairman

Cllr Thompson and Blazeby were nominated, following a vote Cllr P Thompson was elected as Chairman and Mayor of Flitwick Town Council and read and signed the Declaration of Acceptable accordingly.

Cllr Mackey stated that it was an honour to serve his community and wanted to thank both members and staff for their support.

Cllr Thompson wanted to welcome all the new elected members and thanked Cllr Blazeby for standing and hoped he will stand again and to be able to work with him in the future.

4771 Co-op Candidate for the East Ward

Applications had been received from Mr Hodges, Mr Quantrill, Mr Bonner and Mr Badham, following the vote Mr Keith Badham was elected as a Councillor for the East Ward who signed the Declaration of Acceptance accordingly. Cllr Thompson wanted to thank all those who had stood and hope they will get involved in the future.

Mr Bonner left the meeting at this time.

4772 Open Forum

Mr Taylor is the chair of the Bedford Commuters Association who informed the council that following the disruptive timetable last year compensation has been paid and a passage benefit fund of £80,000 following the GTR's public consultation for passenger improvements to Flitwick Train Station. They need to decide how the money should be spent but does not want to put too many ideas forward. Suggestions so far had included a new heated waiting room as one waiting room was heated but the other was not and more seating. They would like as many ideas as possible from the council and local community and they have until 31st July to decide. Cllr Lutley suggested an article for the Flitwick Papers, the next edition would be finalised the following day but if Mr Taylor could work with the editor for the next edition which would be delivered at the end of June. Mr Taylor agreed to contact the editor, who

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would also put the information on facebook and website. Cllr Roberts mentioned the ticket office needed improvement but that there may already be plans to improve this and Mr Taylor confirmed that he had requested details of what was already planned so that the money would be used for additional improvements. Cllr Blazeby asked what the commuters wanted and Mr Taylor confirmed that the main issues raised had been the heated waiting room and more seating. Cllr Blakeman asked if a lift or ramp could be provided and Cllr Shaw asked about disabled access as this had always been a problem. Mr Taylor said that this would be too costly and he wanted to put forward ideas which could be delivered. Cllr Thompson suggested that this goes on the next Community Services Committee agenda and if Mr Taylor could be prepared to do a presentation and he confirmed. *Action: Assistant Town Clerk*

Mr Taylor left the meeting at this time.

Mr Prior informed the Council that he had booked the Village Hall back in February for a fundraising event for several causes including the Hunt Sabs but that the Village Hall Committee had concerns and he had received an email informing him that it had been cancelled and his booking fee refunded. He was disappointed as he had spent a lot of time organising this event. Cllr Thompson informed him that the Village Hall Committee is a charity and are not controlled by the Council and the council only has a representative on the village hall committee. Cllr Lutley suggested that Mr Prior contract the booking office and ask for more details of why the booking had been cancelled. Cllr Blazeby suggested that Mr Prior contact the bookings officer at the Rufus Centre to see if any rooms were available for the date he required and Mr Prior confirmed that he would do this but was concerned about the costs. Cllr Toinko asked if the council can ask the Village Hall why and Cllr Thompson said that they would not have to respond. Cllr Mackey suggested he sort guidance from the charity website and the Village Hall Association. Cllr Thompson suggested Mr Prior contact the Rufus Centre to find out if the Council can help.

Mr Prior left the meeting at this time.

4773 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Members

CBCllr Bunyan informed the Council that the current highway plan is available and work was due to be completed on a number of roads in Flitwick by the end of September. CBCllr Mackey informed the Council that the Conservative party had their majority cut by half at the election and the Independents had been disappointed that the Council leader debate had not taken place but was looking forward to working together with CBCllrs Gomm and Bunyan.

4774 To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from CCBCllr Gomm and Cllr M Platt and these were accepted.

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4775 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Clerk confirmed that the Declaration of Office had been received from all Councillors except Cllr Platt.

4776 Election of the Vice-Chairman

Cllr Williams was nominated as Vice Chairman and Deputy Mayor for Flitwick Town Council and with no other nominations was elected. She read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance to Office.

CBCllrs Bunyan left the meeting at this time.

4777 To Appoint for the ensuing year

Cllr Mackey mentioned that in the Standing Orders, any members can act as substitute members to a committee to replace ordinary members at a meeting of a committee if the ordinary member is unable to attend and whether there was a requirement for Subs to be nominated. It was agreed that subs were not required to be nominated in future. Cllr Blazeby suggested that the chair of each committee had the responsibility to ensure that a committee meeting was quorum and that this had worked well for him as chair. It was agreed that it would be the responsible of the chair of the committee to ensure that there were substitute members attending a meeting if ordinary members were unable to attend. Cllr Thompson suggested that where there are subs, these members should be contacted first and this was agreed.

a. Committees of the Council

i Corporate Services Committee

The following members were appointed to the Corporate Services Committee: Cllrs Roberts, Snape, Thompson, Shaw, Lutley and Blazeby. Appointed Subs: Cllrs Earles, Coleman and Halligan.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that Cllr I Blazeby be elected as Chair of the Corporate Services Committee.

ii Business Services Committee

The following members were appointed to the Business Services Committee: Cllrs Snape, Blazeby, Thompson, Williams, Lutley, Earles, Halligan and Roberts.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that Cllr M Williams be appointed as Chair of the Business Services Committee.

iii Community Services Committee

The following members were appointed to the Community Services Committee: Cllrs Toinko, Platt, Blakeman, Coleman, Williams, Earles, Dann and Badham. Subs: Cllrs Lutley, Snape, Shaw and Halligan.

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It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that Cllr K Banham be appointed as Chair of the Community Services Committee.

iv Planning Committee

The following members were appointed to the Planning Committee: Cllrs Halligan, Dodds, Platt, Mackey, Dann and Coleman.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that Cllr G Mackey be appointed as Chair of the Planning Committee.

b. Panels, Sub Committees, Working Parties and other groups

The Chairman of the following Panels, Sub Committees, Working Parties and any other groups will be chosen at the first meeting of the respective group.

i. Personnel Panel

The following members were appointed to the Personal Panel: Cllrs Lutley, Snape, Blakeman, Mackey and Dann.

ii Cllr/Staff Workshop Panel

The following members were appointed to the Working Panel and it was agreed that only three members are required to attend any meeting on rotation: Cllrs Snape, Williams, Lutley and Coleman.

iii Christmas Lights Working Group

The following members were appointed to the Christmas Lights Working Panel: Cllrs Snape, Lutley and Earles.

iv Health & Safety Panel

The following member was appointed to the Health and Safety Panel: Cllr Blakeman

v Carnival Committee

The following members were appointed to the Carnival Committee: Cllrs Shaw, Earles, Coleman and Dodds.

vi Allotment Liaison Committee

The following members were appointed to the Allotment Liaison Committee: Cllrs Toniko, Lutley, Earles and Platt.

vii Policy Drafting & Review Team (PDRT)

The following members were appointed to PDRT: Cllrs Lutley, Dann, Roberts. Sub: Cllr Halligan.

viii IT Panel

The following members were appointed to the IT Panel: Cllrs Snape and Badham.

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c. Representatives on Outside Bodies

i Highways Meetings

Cllrs Halligan and Dodds were elected as members to attend the Central Bedfordshire Meetings and to agreed between themselves who needs to attend each meeting.

ii Village Hall Committee

Cllr Toinko was elected as the member for the Village Hall Management Committee.

iii Planning Committee

Cllr Halligan was elected as the member to attend the Central Bedfordshire Meetings.

iv Patient Committee

Cllrs Coleman and Roberts were elected as members for the Patient Committee.

v CBC Joint Group

Cllr Halligan was elected as the member to attend the Central Bedfordshire Joint Group.

d. To appoint Community Champions

The following members were elected as champions:

- i Cllr Shaw for the Country Park
- ii Cllrs Snape and Coleman for the Manor Park
- iii Cllrs Snape and Platt for the Millenium Park
- iv Cllr Lutley for the Notice Boards
- vi Cllrs Dann and Roberts for the Police
- xiii Cllrs Toniko, Shaw, Platt, Coleman and Dodds for Youth Champions

4778 To note any Declarations of Interest relating to items on the agenda

No declaration of Interest or request for dispensation had been received.

4779 General Power of Competence

It was confirmed that the criteria was met for the council to be eligible to use the General Power of Competence.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that Flitwick Town Council would adopt the General Power of Competence. Vote: All in favour

4780 Town Mayor Announcements

Cllr Mackey advised that he had attended the Flitwick Awards and that it had been a fantastic evening. Cllr Thompson advised that he had attended several events including the Dog Show which many other Councillors had also attended.

4781 Town Clerk's Report

After reviewing the Clerks Report no further action was required.

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4782 Email response from John Partridge of CBC

Cllr Mackey informed the Council that he was disappointed with the response regarding the crematorium chosen site at Steppingley and especially regarding the statement that the land on Maulden Road was not suitable. He suggested that he would like to respond that the crematorium is made smaller and Cllr Shaw agreed as there is capacity elsewhere. Cllr Blazeby asked Cllr Mackey regarding the meeting he had attended at Steppingley Council and Cllr Mackey confirmed that they were disappointed that it was going ahead and they had agreed to join with Flitwick in their opposite to the site and that a crematorium was needed but in the right area. Cllr Williams understood that Steppingley Council had put in a Freedom of Information request which had been refused and that they were going to appeal. Cllr Thompson mentioned that a section of the email from John Partridge was completely wrong as part of the land was not owned by CBC and was not subject to flood and not green belt. Cllr Dodds mentioned that the access was not in a good place and Cllr Badham said that with the mistakes in the email, these needed to be corrected and asked for a response from John Partridge. Cllr Thompson suggested that a response is sent from the Council and this was agreed. *Action: Interim Town Clerk/Cllr Mackey*

4783 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 400th meeting of Flitwick Town Council held on the 19th February 2019.

Cllr Blazeby queried the decision regarding the publication of the attendance record of councillors and Cllr Mackey said that this could not be done during purdah.

It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that the spreadsheet of Councillor Attendance and apologies including if they are attending alternative meetings be published on the Flitwick Town Council website. Vote: All in favour.

4784 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 321st meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 25th April 2019.

The minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4785 To confirm and adopt the Minutes of the 94th meeting of the Business Services Committee held on the 9th May 2019.

The minutes were proposed, seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4786 Representatives on Outside Bodies

No reports were received.

4787 Late Grant Application

Cllr Mackey said that he had requested this item on the agenda as he was aware that Busy Bees were in a difficult financial position. They are a registered charity and need to replenish their contingency fund which they are required to keep. The issue had

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been the lack of children attending but next year looks better as more children will be attending but they had not yet put in an application.

4788 Questions

- a. Cllr Toinko mentioned whether the 20mph zone will be in place on the road outside the school before the start of the school term as CBCllr Bunyan had mentioned the road in his report earlier but had mentioned work would be done by the end of September. Cllr Mackey will follow this up.

Action: Cllr Mackey

- b. Cllr Coleman asked about the progress of the Burial Site and Cllr Williams confirmed that Planning Permission would be applied for in the next few days.

- c. Cllr Snape asked if a briefing on the Station Road development could be arranged for all the new members and if press releases could go out to all Councillors a day before the release. Cllr Thompson confirmed that the release that had gone out had been approved by the previous council but had been delayed as it had to be agreed by CBC. Cllr Mackey said that the social media responses should be monitored. Cllr Blazeby had thought that positive comments were going to be including in the press release from the Scouts and British Legion and the situation had not been explained well. Cllr Snape said that as it had gone out now, residents believe that the new Councillors were involved and were reading in something which is not the case. Cllr Badham suggested an explanation of the work of the town council and CBC. Cllr Toinko said that people in general do not want parkland sold off.

Action: Mayor/Project Coordinator/Comms & Marketing Officer

- d. Cllr mentioned the traffic calming on Steppingley Road is not working as cars speed along. Cllr Earles mentioned that the police have done speed checks along there. Cllr Shaw mentioned that Ampthill Road was worse and there is no traffic calming.

- e. Cllr Blazeby asked about when the CBC officer Sam Caldbeck was going to attend a meeting to update Councillors on the town centre project. Cllr Thompson said that he was going to be asked to attend the next Town Council meeting on the 18th June.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk

Meeting closed at 9.33pm.

Signed
(Chairman)